

# WRIGHTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 7:30 pm, at Mossy Lea Village Hall, the following were present:

Councillors: Mrs J Burton (Chairman), Mrs K Jukes, Mr F Hodgkinson, Mr F Johnson, Mr R Alexander. Also present County Councillor Bailey and 6 members of the public.

## OPEN FORUM

(At this point in the Meeting members of the public present can report, ask questions, raise issues and make observations on parish matters or items appearing on the Agenda. Reports will also be received from the Police, Borough and County Councillors if attending – Once open forum is closed the Chairman will only suspend standing orders to allow public participation in extreme circumstances.)

The Chairman welcomed those present to the April Meeting and asked that we all treat each other with respect and respect everyone's points of view. A member of the public confirmed that the Chairman had requested the same at previous meetings. He confirmed that Councillor House had, to his credit, at the March Meeting made an apology for an earlier outburst now recognised as inappropriate. He went on to give his opinion on unacceptable behaviour at the March Meeting by Councillors who had spoken to, or about, each other. He reported on an interaction by a Parish Councillor with County Councillor Bailey and about a further interaction between 2 Councillors in relation to with-holding payment of an invoice. He spoke about the action to with-hold payment to a contractor because someone thought he had not done a good job, and suggested that the Council could have with-held 10% of the invoice total until the work was satisfactorily completed, known as "snagging". He stated that his understanding was that the contractor had revisited the job to complete it satisfactorily rather than just saying that the job was done, and requesting payment. He reported on photographs produced by the Clerk to prove or not disprove the issue. Rather than write and complain he felt this type of behaviour needed to stop. It is not good to hear criticism from one side of the room about other Councillors, County Councillors, or members of the public. He then asked for the Chairman's opinion on the matter. The Chairman responded saying that she had left the room, due to her declaration of interest on one matter however, she did ask the Councillor to be calmer when speaking to County Councillor Bailey. The Chairman confirmed that everyone has their opinion and sometimes people get "het up". The public asked why Open Forum is at the start of the Meeting as they are then not allowed to speak on items discussed on the Agenda. They feel if Open Forum is at the beginning of the Meeting and something comes up in the Meeting it is too late for them to speak. The Chairman stressed that the public can speak on any item on the Agenda during Open Forum, and that any item of correspondence can be read aloud at this point so that the public can comment. A Councillor expressed his disappointment with the interaction amongst Councillors'. He feels the Council should work more as a team rather than different parties representing the wards in the Parish. Councillors currently have responsibility for both wards regardless of whether the Parish Council divides in to 2 separate ones in the future. He would like to see more progressive, productive meetings going forward and asked that the Chairman be stronger in reigning in any petty issues in the future. The Chairman agreed to do her best to do so. The Clerk read aloud correspondence item c) in relation to ground work at East and West Quarries and confirmed that copies would be sent to the public requesting them. The public reported that a tarmac surface has now been installed on West Quarry and asked the Parish Council to inform the planning officer and ask if this makes a difference. Borough Councillor Jukes gave an update from the Borough Council perspective. She confirmed that this is now a Borough Council issue and that Councillor Jukes contacted the enforcement officer notifying him of the car park and road surface, whereupon Maybrook Developments and Northern Diver were issued with an enforcement/stop notice to restore the site to its previous state within 28 days. This is a Borough Council matter but the site is still LCC's responsibility. County Councillor Bailey confirmed that as the quarry has now ceased this is a Borough Council matter. The Parish Council will inform LCC planning officer of the updated car park surface. In relation to the concrete pad, which the LCC planning officer recognises was built without planning permission at East Quarry, the premise of permitted development is that the development is required for the safety or maintenance of the mine and that it does not affect the external appearance of the site. Residents believe the concrete pad and moving the fence clearly affects the appearance and therefore requested clarification on the following: Is the concrete pad considered to be part of the permitted development? if so, it does change the appearance of the quarry. Also the pad was in place, without the benefit of planning permission, before permitted development rights were sought and therefore pre dates the suggestion of

using permitted development rights to construct the ramp. Therefore, if the pad is in the planning officers view permitted development, has it not in his opinion changed the appearance of the quarry? The Chairman stopped any discussions on the landowner.

Councillor Jukes left the meeting at his point as she was unwell.

Correspondence item b) was read aloud along with the campaign group update, both items were noted. The Chairman checked that Councillor Jukes was okay before proceeding. It was confirmed that Councillor Jukes would not be coming back to the meeting and had been taken home by her neighbour. Open Forum closed at 8.00pm.

133. **APOLOGIES** – Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors A J Shaw (holidays), C House (injury) and J Chambers (work).
134. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Members were asked to consider any personal/prejudicial interest they may have to disclose in relation to matters under discussion at the Meeting - **Councillor Burton declared an interest in groundwork discussions at the village halls. No further declarations were made at this point in the Meeting, however, should a Councillor feel he/she has any interest in later matters he/she will declare it at that point.**
135. **MINUTES** – The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022 had been circulated in advance of the Meeting. **Resolved – The Minutes were accepted as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.**

### 136. **CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION ITEMS**

Petty cash – going forward, in the interests of openness and transparency, the description accompanying a request for Petty Cash will read “Office Sundries”.

Items reported to, and noted by, the Council – no decision required: REPORT 1 – page 5 – ACCEPTED.

Items requiring discussion, observations or action by the Council:

- a) Notification the External Audit of accounts for the year ending 31/3/22 will take place on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 by PKF Littlejohn LLP – **Noted. Councillor Alexander offered to assist if there is any difficulty with submitting accompanying spread sheets.**
- b) Confirmation from West Lancs. BC that The Corner House, Wrightington, has been designated as an Asset of Community Value + Updates from the residents’ group – **Noted.**
- c) LCC Planning Officer response to questions raised re the concrete pad at East Quarry, Appley Bridge, and the groundwork at West Quarry – Read aloud at the PC Meeting – **In light of discussions in Open Forum a further request for clarification of the items mentioned will be submitted to the LCC Planning Officer. The LCC planning officer will also be informed that groundwork has taken place and a tarmac surface added to what appears to be a car park created on West Quarry.**
- d) LCC response to PC request for additional safety signage on Appley Lane North – Response read aloud at the PC Meeting – **The Council will again confirm that no signs have been erected. CC Bailey will be copied into this correspondence.**
- e) LCC response to PC additional signage and highway improvements on Mill Lane – Response read aloud at the PC Meeting - **Noted.**
- f) Website update request from GoCompare to include a link on the PC website to their guide to preparing for a flood and protecting your property – **Councillors agreed the information is useful, comprehensive and common sense and a link can be added to the website.**
- g) Late items received which may require discussion/action/observations for the next Agenda -
  - i) Initial notification of road closure, Bank Brow, Upholland, 12/6/22, 8am-4pm, to enable tree cutting and overhead cabling works to be carried out – **Noted.** ii) Information from ABCA about the forthcoming Appley Bridge Festival and Duck Race, Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022. Charitable donations will be made from the proceeds to local primary schools – All Saints and Shevington Vale. Plus, confirmation they are happy to be involved in the planting of a tree at the Meadows to celebrated The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee and a suggestion that a flowering Cherry Tree or a Hornbeam would be most suitable. Confirmation, the Chair of ABCA organised a clean-up and litter pick recently. 19 bags of rubbish from the West Lancs. side of the Parish were subsequently collected by West Lancs. BC – **Noted with thanks.**

### 137. HIGHWAYS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

- It was suggested that when a road closure is in place it may be a good opportunity to request a litter pick. This could also be suggested to ABCA and made as a suggestion on the PC website.
- A litter pick is required on Moss Lane now that grass verges have been cut.
- Road markings at the Dangerous Corner junction are faded and could lead to an accident (CC Bailey reported that LCC have budgeted for road markings in this year's budget).
- Councillor Johnson reported that no work has been undertaken to re-set the hazard markers on Mossy Lea Road (CC Bailey will follow this up).
- 3 bus shelters in the Parish need cleaning.
- 2 litter bins have been replaced in Mossy Lea but nothing further has been undertaken. A request will be made that the existing dog waste bins near Mossy Lea playing field and at the Chisnall Avenue junction be replaced with dual purpose, post mounted, litter bins.
- Road sweeping on Mossy Lea Road and Moss Lane has still not been undertaken.

### 138. ACCEPTANCE OF ANNUAL AUDIT PLAN FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR AND REMINDER TO REVIEW DOCUMENTATION IN PARISH COUNCILLORS INFORMATION PACK - **Resolved** - The Parish Council act in accordance with the terms of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Localism Act 2011 and accept the Annual Audit Plan for the forthcoming year. Documents in the Parish Councillors information pack will be reviewed by Councillors. Documentation will be re-adopted at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council to be held in May 2022.

### 139. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES – Nothing to report.

### 140. VILLAGE HALLS

**MOSSY LEA** - Craft Classes £90. Children's Party £30. Yoga classes begin at the start of May. **Noted.**

**APPLEY BRIDGE** – It was reported that the village hall has been booked as a venue for a wedding reception. It is also hoped that the playgroup will take up the booking in the future. **Noted.**

Details/discussion of work quoted for at MLVH and ABVH for 2022/23. 1 quotation already received, plus quotations from 2 other contractors obtained by Councillor Jukes – **Councillors did not feel it necessary for the Chairman to leave the room having declared an interest in this matter, as no discussions could take place. The Chairman took no part in the following. It was confirmed that Councillor Jukes has the remaining 2 quotations. Councillors agreed all 3 quotations be circulated between Parish Council Meetings so that a decision can either be made between meetings if necessary, to be ratified at the May Meeting or, so that a decision can be made at the May Parish Council Meeting.**

### 141. PLANNING To discuss the following applications:

- 1) 2022/0197/UL Single storey rear and side extension. Conversion of existing building to habitable use. 1 Lowther Terrace, Appley Bridge - **Resolved: The Council has no objections to the proposals provided the work does not undermine the stability of the adjacent village hall wall.**
- 2) 2022/0222/FUL Change of use from residential flat to storage for the use of the existing shop. Flat 1, 308 Mossy Lea Road, Wrightington - **Resolved: The Council has no objections in principle to the proposals however, concerns have been expressed about the possible increase in the number of vehicles visiting the premises and the increase in parked vehicles outside the premises. It has been suggested that parking restrictions be imposed in the layby/parking bay in front of the shop making it short stay, limiting it to a maximum of 1 hour and making it for use by visitors/customers to the shop only.**
- 3) 2022/0253/FUL Proposed single storey rear extension. 18 Millbank, Appley Bridge - **Resolved: No Objections.**
- 4) 2022/0254/FUL Construction of a single detached two storey dwelling on additional garden land to the east of No.4 Mill Lane. 4 Mill Lane, Appley Bridge - **Resolved: No Objections.**
- 5) 2022/0263/FUL Conversion of barn to dwelling house with associated works. Earlswood, Moss Lane, Wrightington - **Resolved: No Objections.**

- 6) 2022/0270/FUL Proposed single storey rear extension to a semi-detached bungalow (resubmission of refused application 2021/1019/FUL). 10 Wrightington Bar, Wood Lane, Wrightington - **Resolved: No Objections.**
- 7) 2022/0404/PNP Application for Determination as to whether Prior Approval is required for an upgrade to concrete yards within the farmyard to reduce potential diffuse water pollution from soil contamination when accessed by farm machinery. Aspinall House Farm, 2 Appley Lane South, Appley Bridge – **Resolved: The Council will leave this decision to the professional officers.**

**142. LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS** – Nothing to report.

**143. ACCOUNTS** - To receive the following list of accounts for Approval:

**For Payment:**

CSI Security Systems	Upgrade, supply/install CCTV system MLVH	£960.00
LALC	Annual Subscriptions	£500.27
Dale Burton	2 <sup>nd</sup> planting of planters MLVH & ABVH	£290.00
Mrs C A Cross	Clerk's Salary – Net	£825.64
HM Rev. & Customs	Tax & NI due by Clerk	£0.40
D/D Plusnet	Internet ABVH	£21.60
D/D Plusnet	Internet MLVH	£26.39
D/D Waterplus	Water supply MLVH	£46.38

**Receipts:**

West Lancs. BC	CIL	£1,142.95
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**Resolved: Payment and receipt of the above accounts is approved.**

**144. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Resolved** - That the next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at Appley Bridge Village Hall. 7.00pm Annual Parish Meeting followed at 7.30pm by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

Minutes 133 to 144 will be accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman at the Meeting to be held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

Members of the Public and Press are welcome to attend

Meeting Closed: 8.50 pm

Chairman:

Date:

**REPORT 1**

- Notification planning permission granted for demolition of existing garage, two storey side extension and pitched roof dormer to front elevation. Replacement single storey extension to the rear elevation. Creation of secondary access and new driveway layout to front. Littlecroft, Robin Hood Lane, Wrightington.
- Notification planning permission granted to install new door into existing window opening and block up existing door opening. New composite timber cladding to gable end and redecorate remaining render. Pesto, 206 Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge.
- Notification Certificate of Lawfulness (existing) has been granted for mixed-use of side comprising B2, B8 and E (Office) use. Dawber Delph Quarry, Skull House Lane, Appley Bridge.
- Notification planning permission granted for two storey rear and single storey side extension. 8 Sprodley Drive, Appley Bridge.
- Notification that the appeal against West Lancs. BC decision to refuse permission for remodelling of existing house, including new windows, doors, flat roof and front extension, 4 Tunley Lane, Wrightington, has been dismissed.
- Notification Slow Down Save Lives Resources available to Parish Councils from LCC – 250 bin stickers, 1 x banner (with guidance on installation), 2 x adult high viz waistcoats. – Ordered.
- Copy LCC SPID Policy & Procedure – (for Councillors information in preparation for purchase)
- Notification of Final Recommendations for the New Electoral Arrangements for West Lancs. BC from the Local Government Boundary Commission.